

**BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
URBAN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE REVIEW PANEL
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: November 12, 2015

Meeting # 216

Project: 21st Century School Initiative – Cherry Hill E/MS

Phase: Discussion #2

Location: 801 Bridgeview Rd, Baltimore Md 21225

PRESENTATION:

Architect David Schrader of SGA Architects, reviewed the Panel’s previous comments and the design progress since the last presentation. Much of the discussion centered on the formal relationships between the proposed community center (previously approved) and the redeveloped school property. Craig Bachik, landscape architect with Navarro and Wright, outlined the site landscape design of the revised scheme re-iterating the “Green Schoolyard” concept, whose images reflect creative use of topography with “teachable” and sustainable planned outdoor areas. The revised building layout, which responded directly to the Panel’s previous suggestions, was reviewed in detail, highlighting the dominant role of the original building and a central axis leading to an exterior learning space. Two optional approaches to the façade treatment were presented.

Comments from the Panel:

The Panel was complimentary and felt that the design team had made significant progress since the original discussion. There were some areas suggested for continued study and resolution as follows:

1. **Parking and Drop-off/Service** – Concern was voiced about the safety of the drop-off area on Bridgeview Road. It was also suggested that a stronger relationship be developed between that drop-off area and the school’s parking lot. Additionally, it was suggested that the service area have more separation from the parking lot entrance.
2. **Courtyard Development** – The Panel suggested generally that the “captured space” between the school and the community center should be primarily influenced by an orthogonal relationship with the school itself and should be simplified significantly. The pedestrian pathway between the two uses should be strengthened by landscape (trees) and perhaps be developed more definitively.
3. **Materiality/ Façade** – Some concern was voiced about the use of metal panels on the exterior façade although Concept #1 was preferred because it more clearly reflected the contrast between the “old” and “new” sections of the complex. Investigation of a ‘softer’ more human scaled material was discussed (cementitious panel).
4. **Landscape / Roof** - All agreed that the landscape concepts were very creative and promising. Suggestions were made to utilize portions of the roof wherever feasible to extend the sustainable learning opportunities. Striving for an ‘elegant simplicity’ in the landscape was desired and ordering the SWM facilities on site could attribute to that.

Panel Action: No action required; discussion only.

Attending: David Schrader – SGA Architects
John Syrgley – SGA Architects
Craig Bachik, Brian Fincher –Navarro and Wright
Bob Mock- GWWO
Todd Niefeld – CSP
Michael McBride, Diane Miceli – Baltimore City Public Schools
Adam Boarman, Paul Taylor – BC Rec + Parks
Bowden*, Burns, Haresign, Rubin - UDARP Panel
Tom Stosur, Christina Hartsfield, Anthony Cataldo, Caitlin Audette –Planning Dept